



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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Welcome to the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Division provides supports and services to more than 27,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Arizona. The following is a brief introduction to the Division, along with a summary of some of our recent accomplishments.

The Division's mission is to support the choices of individuals with disabilities and their families by promoting and providing within communities, flexible, quality, consumer-driven services and supports. The Division values its community connections and emphasis on looking at a person's strengths and gifts.

The Division delivers most services in the family or person's own home. Services are provided based on each person's identified needs, state and/or federal guidelines and, when applicable, the availability of funds. Services are authorized and monitored by a support coordinator (case manager). The support coordinator promotes access to community resources and flexibility in meeting the person's needs. While some services are delivered directly by the State, most services are delivered through a large network of individual and agency contracted providers.

Services are provided throughout the lifespan of an eligible consumer. For young children, the Division, DES Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), and community agencies provide early intervention services for children ages birth to three who have special needs and their families. Early intervention services help young children grow and develop and support their families as well.

During the school years, services for children and young adults may include specific skills training, behavioral health services coordinated with the Department of Behavioral Health Services at DHS, assistance with personal care, assistance with transition from school to work or respite (caregiver relief). For adult consumers, supports may include training to get and keep a job, structured day time activities, in home assistance with personal care and other skills training.

The Division also has available out of home placements for children and adults for whom living with family or independently is not an option. Acute care health plans are provided to consumers that also qualify for Arizona Long Term Care.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Division continues to be a leader in the country for providing services to consumers and families in their home and communities. Eighty six percent of its 27,000 consumers live in their own homes and communities rather than in congregate settings.
- The Division implements one of the largest fiscal intermediary /independent provider programs for people with disabilities in the country. The program provides an avenue for consumers to hire their choice of independent providers for home and community based services and supports nearly 3000 consumers and over 3000 independent providers.
- Self advocates with disabilities made Arizona one of the first states in the nation to discontinue use of the term "mental retardation" by promoting legislation that replaced the term with "cognitive disability" in Division statutes.
- The Division believes in connecting with community partners. It supports Human Rights Committees, family groups throughout the state, a self determination council and always looks for ways to include families, people with disabilities, providers and other community stakeholders as integral members and contributors to improve services and supports.

Thank you for visiting the Division's website. We hope that the information provided here will be helpful to you. We encourage your feedback (write us at DDDWeb@azdes.gov) and look forward to continued partnership with people with disabilities, families, advocates, providers and other community partners.



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